Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 DODE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SAJ-01 FEA-01 AGR-10 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5998

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS RABAT 3464

CORRECTED COPY -- TEXT --

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN EGEN MO

SUBJECT: FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER SIGNS THREE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

1. FRENCH ECONOMIC AND FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE ARRIVED RABAT 1000 A.M. 15 JULY AND WAS MET BY MOROCCAN COUNTRERPART, FINMIN BESLIMANE. AFTER BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT, FOURCADE PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO FINANCE MINISTRY TO SIGN:

A. RECIPROCAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEE ACCORD;

B. FINANCIAL AID PROTOCOL PROVIDING UP TO TOTAL OF 840 MILLION FF IN GOVERNMENT TREASURY LOANS AND GUARANTEED PRIVATE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FRENCH PRODUCTS TO BE USED IN IMPLEMENTING MOROCCAN FIVE YEAR PLAN;

C. AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING COMMON FUND FROM WHICH BOTH MOROCCAN AND FRENCH CLAIMS WILL BE PAID. UNCLASSIFIED

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- 2. INVESTMENT GUARANTEE ACCORD OFFERS LITTLE NEW; IN FACT AGREEMENT IS LONG OVERDUE. IT PROVIDES FOR STANDARD PROCTECTION FOR INVESTMENT AKIN TO US-MOROCCAN ACCORD OF 1961 BUT WITH RECIPROCAL BENEFITS. AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE ACCORD IS SIMILARLY OVERDUE AND SHOULD GO FAR TO REMOVE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF STRAIN BETWEEN MOROCCAN AND FRENCH NATIONALS.
- 3. AID PROTOCOL IS RENEWAL OF CUSTOMARY ANNUAL AGREEMENT. PRESENT ACCORD WAS NEGOTIATED JULY 11 TO 14 IN RABAT AND PROVIDES FOR DIRECT FRENCH TREASURY LOANS FOR PURCHASE OF FRENCH CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, PRINCIPALLY IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POWER GENERATION, PETRO-CHEMICALS, INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, FOOD PROCESSING, BUILDING INDUSTRY, AND PUBLIC WORKS. IN ADDITION TO TREASURY LOANS, PRIVATE LOAN FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE WITH GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES, BRINGING THIS YEAR'S TOTAL TO GOM TO 840 MILLION FF.
- 4. COMMENT: VAST MAJORITY OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY MOROCCO REMAINS FRENCH AND TYING HAS LONG BEEN CUSTOMARY, FUNDS ARE HOWEVER BIENG MADE AVAILABLE AT TIME WHEN GOM IS HARD PRESEED FOR CASH. FUNDS WILL CONSTITUTE A WELCOME CONTRIBUTION TOWARD HELPING MOROCCO THROUGH PRESENT FINANCIAL SQUEEZE. FOURCADE REMARKED THAT FRANCE IS ALREADY HOLDING 900 MILLION FF WORTH OF ORDERS FOR EQUIPMENT SO USE OF FUND MAY BE HIGHER THAN IN RECENT PAST WHEN SUPPLIER CREDITS OFTEN NOT FULLY UTILIZED. AMOUNTS IN LINE WITH EMBASSY ASSUMPTIONS REFLECTED IN RECENT ANNUAL US AID BUDGET AND FORTHCOMING TRENDS REPORT. AS WE ANTICIPATED (RABAT 3015) GOM WILL STILL HAVE TO STRUGGLE HARD TO MAINTAIN AS MUCH OF ITS AMBITIOUS INVESTMENT PROGRAM AS POSSIBLE. WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT THAT TERMS ON WHICH FRENCH FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSED SINCE FRENCH CUSTOMARILY CLOSE ON DETAILS THEIR COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS HERE. NEUMANN

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Subject: FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER SIGNS THREE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, MO, (FOURCADE, JEAN-PIERRE), (BENSLIMANE, ABDELKADER)

To: STATE

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